



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"WHY AM I LOCKED UP?"

Youth Empowerment and Awareness Summit

At Baltimore City Detention Center Thursday, January 24 From 9-1

401 E. Eager St.

Teenagers awaiting trial on serious adult charges to hear from distinguished speakers, including Bealefeld, Rosenstein, Marriott

TOWSON, MD (January 22, 2007)---Baltimore's police chief and deputy mayor and Maryland's top prosecutor headline the list of distinguished speakers and guests who will come to the Baltimore City Detention Center for the first Youth Empowerment and Awareness Summit on Thursday, January 24 from 9-1. The special program is being offered thanks to a partnership between The Family League of Baltimore City and the Maryland Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, which runs the Baltimore City Central Booking and Detention Centers, and whose population includes 123 juveniles charged as adults with serious crimes.

The day begins with words of encouragement from a number of special guests, including Fred Bealefeld and Salima Marriott, Baltimore's police commissioner and deputy mayor, respectively; U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein; and keynote speaker Dante Wilson, the Executive Director of *Reclaiming Our Children and Community Project*. The full agenda is below.

9:00	<i>Welcome and guest speakers</i>
9:20	<i>Keynote address</i>
9:40-10:10	<i>Session I: The Power of Education</i>
10:15-10:45	<i>Session II: Ready, Set, Work</i>
10:50-11:20	<i>Session III: Why Am I Locked Up?</i>
11:25-12:00	<i>Resource booths open for visits</i>
	<i>---Closing comments follow lunch---</i>

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**Maryland's Division of Pretrial Detention and Services
And Its Youth Population**

Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is the only agency in the nation to run not only a state prison system, but a large city's detention and booking centers as well. DPSCS' Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS) operates the Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center, where all citizens arrested in the City of Baltimore are processed; and the Men's and Women's Detention Centers, where those awaiting trial are held. In addition, juveniles under 18 who are charged as adults are supervised by the Division, which not only houses and feeds them, but provides daily education at the only public school of its kind in America, The Eager Street Academy, and offers a variety of cultural and educational services.

On any given day, the Division holds as many as 150 boys and girls, most between the ages of 13 and 18. As of January 18, there were 123 juveniles in the population.

Not all of the young people held at this pretrial level will end-up in prison. Some will be referred back to the juvenile system; some will be released; others will be found not guilty or referred to special programs outside of corrections.

In addition to those special guests mentioned above, the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services' Youth Empowerment & Awareness Summit will feature more than 30 others who are concerned enough about our youth to come and offer their support. These include:

Leon Farruq and Walter Lomax (the former is an ex-offender now running the Living Classrooms project, and the latter was freed from an erroneous prison sentence after many years)

Dr. Andrey Bundley, Baltimore City School official and onetime mayoral candidate

Donald DeVore, Maryland's Secretary of Juvenile Services

Lt. Col. Rick Hite, Director of the Baltimore City Police Youth Division

The Division of Pretrial Detention and Services extends special thanks to the Family League of Baltimore City and the Eager Street Academy for their help in making this special event happen.

Summit Mission Statement: To empower deep end youth who are currently incarcerated to make positive decisions based on alternative information, relevant resources, and available support so that they might be motivated to choose a more productive life's course upon release.

---The Family League of Baltimore

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